

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheet attached in connection with the above-identified application containing FIGS. 14, 15A, 15B and 16 is being presented as a new formal drawing sheet to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheet containing FIGS. 14, 15A (first occurrence), 15A (second occurrence) and 16. FIG. 15A (second occurrence) has been amended to be correctly labeled as FIG. 15B. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previously submitted drawing sheet which has been marked to show the change presented in the replacement sheet of the drawings.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to correct minor informalities, claims 4-6, 9 and 13-15 have been withdrawn from further consideration, new claims 16-25 have been added, and claims 1-3 and 10-12 remain unchanged.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier. Claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-12 and 16-25 are presently pending in this application for consideration.

The Examiner has required restriction between claims 1-3, 7-8 and 10-12 drawn to a color/monochrome conversion (Group I), claims 4, 9 and 13 drawn to color/monochrome determination (Group II), claims 5 and 14 drawn to image compression (Group III), and claims 6 and 15 drawn to image decompression (Group IV).

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-3, 7-8 and 10-12 for examination, with traverse. Please note that new claims 16-25 are also directed to a color/monochrome conversion and should also be included within Group I.

The Office Action objects to the specification for minor informalities and to the drawings for including reference characters not mentioned in the description.

By this amendment, the specification has been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

In addition, the specification has been amended to mention the reference characters shown in the drawings but omitted from the description at each instance identified by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings

satisfy the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) and therefore request withdrawal of the objection.

Also with respect to the drawings, the second occurrence of FIG. 15A has been amended to be correctly labeled as FIG. 15B.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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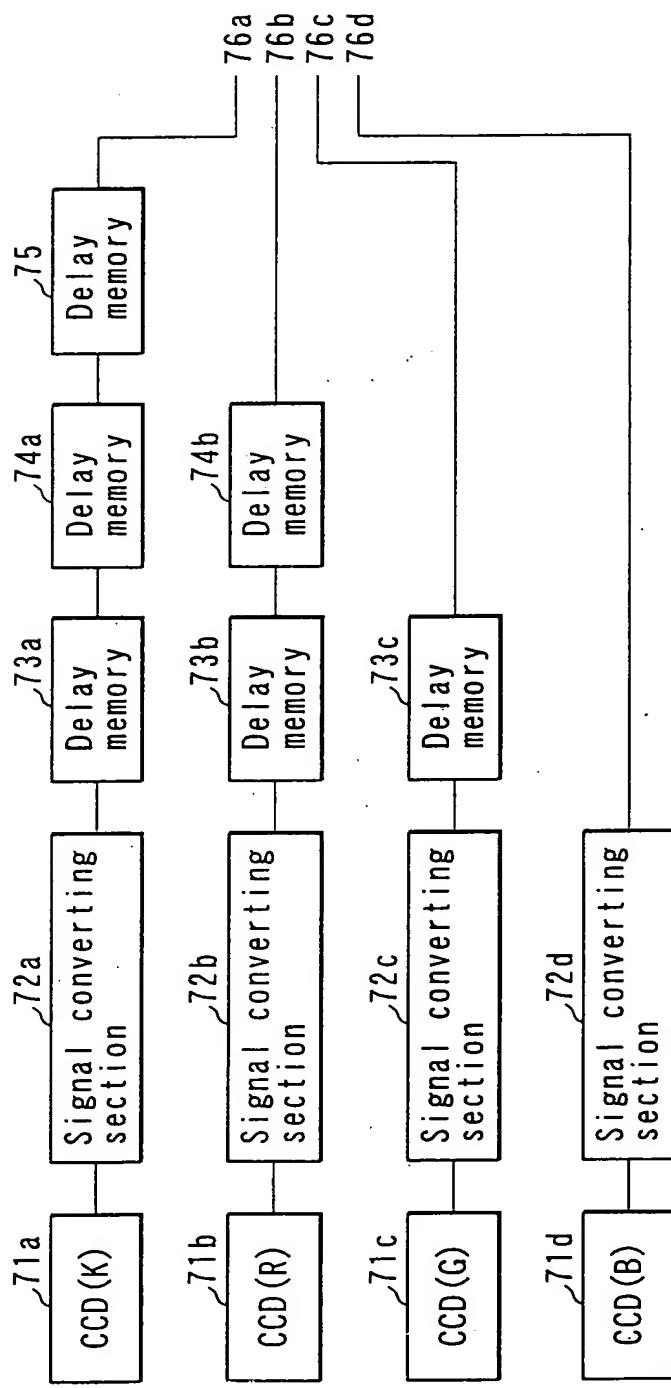


FIG. 14

